

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A system for at least one of monitoring the performance of an implantable medical device (IMD) implanted within a body of a patient, monitoring the health of the patient and remotely delivering a therapy to the patient through the IMD, the IMD being capable of simultaneous bi-directional communication with a communication module located external to the patient's body, the system comprising:

- (a) an IMD, the IMD comprising a memory having software loaded therein and means for permitting the software to be at least one of updated and reprogrammed after the IMD has been implanted, and
- (b) a universal communication module comprising means for at least one of updating and reprogramming at least portions of the software loaded in the IMD, the universal communication module being configured to operate in conjunction with a plurality of different commercially available implantable medical devices originating from different manufacturers and being selectively programmable to communicate with, receive data from, and download data to any of various implantable medical devices;
- (c) a mobile telephone operably connected to the universal communication module and capable of receiving software information therefrom or relaying software information thereto;
- (d) a remote computer system capable of initiating the downloading of updated or new software to the IMD; and
- (e) a communications system comprising a network coupling the remote computer system to the universal communications module via the mobile telephone, wherein the communication system includes means capable of performing simultaneous bi-directional communication with the mobile telephone and the remote computer

system and wherein the remote computer system couples to at least one of: an automatic expert system adapted to render one or more suggested courses of therapeutic action, a clinician, an emergency dispatch facility.

2. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module is incorporated into the mobile telephone.
3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the mobile telephone further comprises a Personal Data Assistant (PDA).
4. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module is a device separate and apart from the mobile telephone.
5. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the IMD and the universal communication module communicate with one another using radio-frequency telemetry.
6. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises at least one of a microprocessor, a controller, a CPU, a computer readable memory operably connected to a processor, and at least one RF communications circuit for transmitting information to and receiving information from the IMD.
7. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises a data output port, cable and connector for connection to a mobile telephone data input port of the mobile telephone.

8. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises in a memory thereof computer readable software for initiating and maintaining communications with the mobile telephone using standardized handshake protocols.
9. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises at least one of a telemetry signal strength indicator and a telemetry session success indicator.
10. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises at least one of volatile RAM, non-volatile RAM, ROM, EEPROM, a hard or floppy disk, and flash memory for storing at least one of patient data, IMD data, and software.
11. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises at least one of a real-time clock, a battery, a serial output interface and a parallel output interface.
12. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module is adapted to receive electrical power from at least one of a portable energy source disposed therewithin or connected thereto, a portable energy source disposed within or connected to the mobile telephone, and household line ac power.
13. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module is plug-and-play compatible with the mobile telephone.
14. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module, upon receiving instruction from the patient, the remote

computer system or a remote health care provider, further comprises means for interrogating the IMD to assess the operational performance thereof, upload data therefrom, or assess the health status of the patient.

15. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, the wherein universal communication module further comprises means for storing information obtained from the IMD in a computer readable medium.

16. (currently amended) The system of claim 14, wherein the communication module further comprises means for relaying information obtained from the IMD to the remote computer system via the mobile telephone.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module, upon receiving instruction from one of the remote computer system or and a remote health care provider, further comprises means for interrogating the IMD to assess the operational performance thereof, upload data therefrom, or assess the health status of the patient.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for storing information obtained from the IMD in a computer readable medium.

19. (currently amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for relaying information obtained from the IMD to the remote computer system via the mobile telephone.

20. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the communication system further comprises at least one of a mobile telephone network, the Internet, a Local Area Network (LANs), a Wide Area Network (WAN), an Integrated Services

Digital Network (ISDN), a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTNs), a wireless network, an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network, and a satellite.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for managing and updating software relating to at least one of the operational and functional parameters of the universal communication module or the IMD.
22. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for defecting a fault in the operation or circuitry thereof.
23. (currently amended) The system of claim 22, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for correcting a detected fault in operation or circuitry the universal communication module and means for notifying one of the remote computer system ~~or~~ and the patient that the fault has been one of detected ~~or~~ and corrected.
24. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for defecting a fault in the operation or circuitry of the IMD.
25. (currently amended) The system of claim 24, wherein the universal communication module further comprises means for correcting a detected fault in the operation or circuitry of the IMD and means for notifying the remote computer system or the patient that a fault has been detected or corrected.

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for mining at least one of patient history, performance parameter integrity and software status from the universal communication module.

27. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising means for generating automatic invoices in response to a patient-initiated, IMD-initiated, universal remote computer system-initiated, communication module-initiated, mobile telephone-initiated and a PDA-initiated transmission or reception of information that one of originates in or relates to the IMD.

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the universal communication module comprises at least one of means for monitoring the performance of the IMD, and means for monitoring physiologic signals or data indicative of the patient's health status.

29. (currently amended) A communication system for at least one of monitoring the performance of an implantable medical device (IMD) implanted within a body of a patient, monitoring the health of the patient and remotely delivering a therapy to the patient through the IMD, the IMD being capable of simultaneous bi-directional communication with at least one of a mobile telephone and a Personal Data Assistant (PDA) located external to the patient's body, the system comprising:

- (a) an IMD, the IMD comprising a memory having software loaded therein and means for permitting the software to be updated and reprogrammed after the IMD has been implanted within the patient's body;
- (b) at least one of a mobile telephone and a PDA, the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprising means for at least one of updating and reprogramming at least

portions of the software loaded in the IMD, the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA being capable of simultaneously receiving information from and relaying information to the IMD, wherein the updating and programming means is a universal device configured to operate in conjunction with a plurality of different commercially available implantable medical devices originating from different manufacturers and being selectively programmable to communicate with, receive data from, and download data to any of various implantable medical devices;

- (c) a remote computer system capable of initiating the downloading of updated or new software to the IMD via a communication system and ~~at the~~ communication module; and

wherein the communication system includes means for performing simultaneous bi-directional communication with the mobile telephone and the PDA and wherein the remote computer system couples to at least one of: an automatic expert system adapted to render one or more suggested courses of therapeutic action, a clinician, an emergency dispatch facility.

30. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the PDA is incorporated into the mobile telephone.

31. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the PDA is operably connected to the mobile telephone.

32. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the IMD and the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA communicate with one another using radio-frequency telemetry.

33. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises at least one of a microprocessor, a controller, a CPU, a computer readable memory operably connected to a processor, and at least one RF communications circuit for transmitting information to and receiving information from the IMD.

34. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises a data output port, cable and connector for connection to an external device.

35. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises in a memory thereof computer readable software for initiating and maintaining communications with the IMD using standardized handshake protocols.

36. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises at least one of a telemetry signal strength indicator and a telemetry session success indicator.

37. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises at least one of volatile RAM, non-volatile RAM, ROM, EEPROM, a hard or floppy disk, and flash memory for storing at least one of patient data, IMD data, and software.

38. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises at least one of a real-time clock, a battery, a serial output interface and a parallel output interface.

39. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA is adapted to receive electrical power from at least one of a portable energy source disposed therewithin or connected thereto and household line ac power.

40. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the PDA is plug-and-play compatible with the mobile telephone.

41. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA, upon receiving instruction from the patient, the remote computer system or a remote health care provider, further comprises means for interrogating the IMD to assess the operational performance thereof, upload data therefrom, or assess the health status of the patient.

42. (original) The system of claim 41, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for storing information obtained from the IMD in a computer readable medium.

43. (currently amended) The system of claim 41, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for relaying information obtained from the IMD to the remote computer system via the mobile telephone.

44. (currently amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA, upon receiving instruction from one of the remote computer system and/or a remote health care provider, further comprises means for interrogating the IMD to assess the operational performance thereof, upload data therefrom, or assess the health status of the patient.

45. (original) The system of claim 44, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for storing information obtained from the IMD in a computer readable medium.

46. (currently amended) The system of claim 45, wherein at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for relaying information obtained from the IMD to the remote computer system via the mobile telephone.

47. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the communication system further comprises at least one of a mobile telephone network, the Internet, a Local Area Network (LANs), a Wide Area Network (WAN), an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN), a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTNs), a wireless network, an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network, and a satellite.

48. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for managing and updating software relating to at least one of the operational and functional parameters of the communication module or the IMD.

49. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for detecting a fault in the operation or circuitry thereof.

50. (original) The system of claim 49, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for correcting a detected fault in operation or circuitry the communication module and means for notifying the remote computer system or the patient that the fault has been detected or corrected.

51. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for defecting a fault in the operation or circuitry of the IMD.

52. (original) The system of claim 51, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA further comprises means for correcting a detected fault in the operation or circuitry of the IMD and means for notifying the remote computer system or the patient that a fault has been detected or corrected.

53. (original) The system of claim 29, further comprising means for mining at least one of patient history, performance parameter integrity and software status from the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA.

54. (currently amended) The system of claim 29, further comprising means for generating automatic invoices in response to a patient-initiated, IMD-initiated, remote computer system-initiated, communication module-initiated, mobile telephone-initiated and a PDA-initiated transmission or reception of information that one of originates in or relates to the IMD.

55. (original) The system of claim 29, wherein the at least one of the mobile telephone and the PDA comprises at least one of means for monitoring the performance of the IMD, and means for monitoring physiologic signals or data indicative of the patient's health status.

56.-59. (canceled)